

three crocodilians occurring in Senegal—an olive and a black crocodile, and a false gavial. There are constantly received from the Gambia and various parts of the west coast of Africa only three species of crocodilians, viz. :—1. *Crocodilus vulgaris*, which is olive; 2. *C. frontatus*, which is black, and is known, on the coast, by the name of the Black Crocodile, or Black Alligator; and 3. a gavial-like crocodile (*C. cataphractus*, Cuvier).

If the "*Crocodile noire*" is not *C. frontatus*, then Adanson, one of the most intellectual and advanced naturalists of the last century, must have entirely overlooked the latter, and have given the name of the black crocodile and the false gavial to *C. cataphractus*, which is more like a gavial than a crocodile.

Dr. Strauch's Essay is a very elaborate and careful compilation, stating many things as positive which he could not have verified by the examination of specimens; for, unfortunately, the collection under his care is very small, and consists chiefly of very young specimens, and he does not appear to have visited other European or American collections: in fact the materials are not sufficient to be the basis of a monograph of crocodilians of any authority or originality.

#### *Rare British Sharks.*

The British Museum has lately received from Mr. William Laughrin, of Polperro, a specimen of the spinous shark (*Echinorhinus spinosus*), 7 feet long, and of the six-gilled shark (*Hexanchus griseus*), 6 feet long. These fish have each been recorded only once before as having occurred on the British coast.—J. E. GRAY.

#### *The Australian Representative of Cynthia cardui.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—In most works referring to the distribution of the English *Cynthia cardui*, or Painted-Lady Butterfly, it is said to be common in Australia. There is in abundance, about Melbourne and in many other parts of Australia, a *Cynthia* with the general appearance and habit of the *C. cardui* so closely represented that every entomologist I know refers it to that species. The Australian species differs from the European one constantly, however, in having the centres of the three lower round spots on the posterior wings bright blue, and having two other blue spots on the posterior angles of the same wings, the corresponding parts of the European form being black.

As the collector I employ for the museum here, Mr. W. Kershaw, mentioned this to me six or seven years ago, and I have found the character constant in all the specimens I have examined since, I should wish to draw attention to the fact by naming the Australian insect *Cynthia Kershawi*.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK M'COY.